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LOUISIANA COASTAL AREA  
COMPREHENSIVE COASTWIDE ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION PROJECT  
(LCA)  
(Implementation of Coast 2050 Plan)

\* \* \* \* \*

The public meeting of the LCA, taken in connection  
with the above captioned matter, before Pamela M.  
MacDowell, Certified Court Reporter, at the Lake Charles  
Civic Center, 900 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles,  
Louisiana, on Wednesday, the 12th day of February 2003,  
beginning at 6:39 p.m.

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1 MAYOR RANDY ROACH:

2 It's certainly an honor for us to host tonight's  
3 meeting. We've been anxiously looking forward to an  
4 opportunity to gather with those from across southwest  
5 Louisiana who are interested in what's going on with  
6 respect to the coastal restoration efforts and the project  
7 as it affects not only the state, but our special corner  
8 of the state. And this will give us an opportunity to not  
9 only hear what's going on, but also to express our  
10 viewpoints as far as how we feel about the effort as it  
11 affects southwest Louisiana and the coastal region,  
12 coastal parishes Vermilion and, of course, Cameron Parish,  
13 our near neighbor to the south.

14  
15 My name is Randy Roach; I'm mayor of the city of  
16 Lake Charles. In another life I was a legislator  
17 representing District 36, and I'm proud to say at that  
18 time that district included the southern part of Calcasieu  
19 Parish and all of Cameron Parish, and it was a great  
20 opportunity for me to learn a little bit about the process  
21 and to learn a little bit about the coastal environment as  
22 it relates to not only our economy, but our culture. And  
23 over the process of those years I've learned that it is  
24 the coast of Louisiana and the culture that has grown up  
25 around the coast of Louisiana that is responsible for the  
personality of Louisiana. And what is at stake here is

1 more than just a few acres of wetlands, just a few acres  
2 of habitat for migratory waterfowl. What is at stake here  
3 is literally the personality and future of Louisiana as we  
4 know it today. And when I was involved in a meeting just  
5 a couple of weeks ago, we were talking about and trying to  
6 impress some people from out of state with the importance  
7 of this initiative, and we used the analogy of the Rocky  
8 Mountains. And I don't know how many of you have had an  
9 opportunity to go to Colorado and see those magnificent  
10 fourteen thousand plus foot peaks, like Pike Peaks --  
11 Pikes Peak and some of those others. And what we were  
12 trying to describe to those who were not familiar with  
13 Louisiana, but were familiar with Colorado, was that if  
14 those mountains were somehow eroding and gradually, year  
15 by year, the height of those mountains was being eroded  
16 away and there were dangers of slipping into the thirteen-  
17 fives and the thirteen-two and the thirteen thousand and  
18 twelve-five and all this -- you know, it's gradually  
19 decreasing in height -- that there would be a national  
20 outcry. And if there was something that could be done, if  
21 the scientist got together and figured out a way that we  
22 could prevent that from happening, I guarantee you that  
23 there would be a national movement to do whatever it took  
24 and spend whatever it took in order to protect and  
25 preserve that ecosystem and those magnificent mountainous  
peaks.

1           And I would suggest to you that the coastal region  
2 of Louisiana and -- not only as you see it depicted here,  
3 but the coastal marshlands of Louisiana deserve as much  
4 attention, if not more, because they not only contribute a  
5 magnificent ecosystem and all that is associated with  
6 that, but they also, as I mentioned to you earlier,  
7 contribute to the personality of Louisiana and who we are  
8 as a people. And that's something that -- it's like the  
9 Visa commercial; it's priceless.

10           And so I want to welcome you here tonight. I know  
11 that you wouldn't be here tonight if you didn't share in  
12 that and if you didn't agree with that, and that's why  
13 this project is so important, and that's why these series  
14 of meetings are being held all across the state: in order  
15 to give us an opportunity to provide input as we go  
16 through the process of developing and implementing a  
17 project on a basin by basin, area by area basis in order  
18 to deal with the issues and deal with the challenges that  
19 we face.

20           Before I go any further tonight, I would like to  
21 recognize the elected officials that are in the office  
22 that I'm -- I mean in the room here this evening. And I  
23 look around and I see one, my good friend and cohort,  
24 Mayor Margo Roppa (Phonetic) from the town of Iowa.  
25 Margo, if you could stand. (Applause) I really appreciate  
Margo being here. I know that she is very interested in

1 not only what goes on in the community of Iowa, but she's  
2 been a very strong supporter of our efforts here, and  
3 she's part of that initiative which we're trying to  
4 implement; and that is, focusing on southwest Louisiana as  
5 a region the way that we work and play and do business.  
6 And so I appreciate very much her being here tonight; it's  
7 a strong show of support for our effort. Have I missed  
8 any other elected officials? I know we have Pam Stirrock  
9 with Calcasieu Parish Police Jury. Pam. (Applause) And I  
10 think that pretty well covers it. And the rest of you  
11 probably know each other.

12 And so, again, I want to welcome you and thank you  
13 for coming out tonight. I think the last official duty  
14 that I have as far as tonight's welcome is to introduce to  
15 you the facilitator for tonight's meeting; her name is  
16 Robin Duncan. For the past three years Robin has worked  
17 for the Office of University Relations at LSU as the  
18 senior marketing coordinator. She is responsible for  
19 promoting and marketing the academic and research  
20 activities at LSU. Before LSU, she worked with a large  
21 industrial company based in Baton Rouge. She's currently  
22 working on her master's degree in organizational  
23 communication from LSU. So, obviously, that's why she's  
24 been chosen to be the facilitator. So Robin, I'll turn it  
25 over to you. (Applause)

MS. DUNCAN:

1                   Thank you, Mayor Roach. Those were some  
2 wonderful comments that you just made. I think you hit  
3 the nail right on the head. Good evening everyone. On  
4 behalf of the governor's office and the Department of  
5 Natural Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers, we'd  
6 like to thank you for coming here tonight. This is a good  
7 turnout. You're going to hear some interesting  
8 information tonight and many of you are going to have some  
9 comments and questions and that's why we're here, to  
10 answer those comments and questions and also give you some  
11 more information about the projects that the Corps and DNR  
12 are working on.

13               As Mayor Roach said, my name is Robin Duncan. I  
14 work at the Office of University Relations at LSU. I'm  
15 going to tell you a little bit about the agenda tonight so  
16 you have an idea of what's going to happen. We're going  
17 to have basically two presentations. Both presentations  
18 in total are going to be about forty to forty-five  
19 minutes, and they're going to be given first -- the first  
20 presentation is going to be given by Jon Porthouse who is  
21 the senior project manager at the Louisiana Department of  
22 Natural Resources. And after that we're going to have a  
23 presentation from Sue Hawes, right here to my left, who's  
24 a project manager with the Army Corps of Engineers.

25               Now that we have the agenda there... That's going  
to take about forty to forty-five minutes, and after that

1 we're going to have an entire hour for you to ask  
2 questions and comments. This looks like a good group. I  
3 don't think we're going to have -- we'll have plenty of  
4 time to do that.

5 One thing I do want to say before I go into the  
6 rules -- because there's always rules to this, isn't  
7 there? -- that Jon and Sue -- if you don't like standing  
8 up in front of a microphone and if you would prefer to ask  
9 a question of Jon and Sue one on one you can do that at  
10 the end of the presentations, at the end of the whole  
11 meeting. Jon and Sue will not leave until all questions  
12 are answered, any comments that want to be given. So  
13 you're more than welcome to talk to them personally.

14 First thing I ask you to do on my ground rules is if  
15 you have a beeper or if you have a cell phone if you can  
16 turn them on vibrate that would be great. If you can't  
17 hear, tell us. Can everyone hear me in the back? This  
18 sounds like a very good sound system. When you come up to  
19 the mic -- and that's what we'd like you to do when you  
20 ask your questions, is come up to this center mic -- we'd  
21 love to have your name, and if it's one of those difficult  
22 names to spell, would you please spell it? We have a  
23 wonderful court reporter here tonight who is trying to  
24 gather all this information down, as well as a number of  
25 media representatives who might want to get your names  
spelled correctly. So give us your name, your



1 affiliation, and we'd love to know where you're from. I  
2 ask that you please just have one question at a time. I'd  
3 like for everyone to have an opportunity to stand up and  
4 ask a question and make a comment. So if you could please  
5 limit it to one at a time that would be great.

6       There were some cards that some of you may have saw  
7 at the very front. They ask you your name, your  
8 organization, and do you wish to make a statement. This  
9 is not mandatory, but I've already gotten some cards from  
10 people in the audience who definitely want to go ahead and  
11 make a comment. So I will probably draw from the cards  
12 first.

13       Also, if you'd like to stand up and make a comment,  
14 if you could keep it to less than one minute that would be  
15 good. So don't be offended if sometimes I have to cut you  
16 off, because sometimes I do. We have an hour to try and  
17 get as many questions and comments as we can.

18       And that's it. We're going to start with Jon  
19 Porthouse who I mentioned earlier was the senior project  
20 manager with the Louisiana Department of Natural  
21 Resources. So thank you for coming. We're so glad that  
22 we had a good turnout. Thank you.

23 MR. PORTHOUSE:

24       Thank you all for coming out. I know a lot of you  
25 already and some of you I have not met yet and I hope to  
talk to you personally at the end of the night. It does

1 us a lot of good to come out here and talk to you folks,  
2 meet you personally, so we can totally understand exactly  
3 where you're coming from, get your points of view really  
4 right into this study and make it the best thing it can  
5 possibly be.

6 So, what are we doing here tonight? Three things we  
7 want you to walk away with tonight. First thing: We're  
8 doing a reporting process -- going through a reporting  
9 process to get something to congress for 2004  
10 consideration. It's called a Feasibility Study, but it's  
11 different than a traditional Corps of Engineer's  
12 feasibility study. That's a key point. I need you to  
13 understand what the difference is and why that's good  
14 because it'll get your projects on the ground faster.

15 Second thing we're trying to do tonight is to inform  
16 most of you who do not already know the different ways you  
17 can stay informed on the progress of this study and all  
18 the other coastal activities we have going on. And more  
19 importantly, the many ways you can participate and help  
20 make our jobs a lot easier and in the end make this  
21 program a success.

22 The last thing we want to do is update you on where  
23 we are in this whole reporting process. We are doing  
24 different things. We are about a year since the last time  
25 we came out to talk to you, and you need to know where we  
are in the study and where we're going over the next

1 couple of months so that you can begin to look for the  
2 information, look for things to participate in.

3 Before I go on, Karen Gautreaux, the governor's  
4 executive assistant, just kind of snuck in the back. So  
5 she's around, too, if you have any questions later at the  
6 end of the night. Hi, Karen.

7 So let's get into this. The problems are not new to  
8 many of you. Most of you, since you're here, you  
9 obviously have some interest in these things, so you know  
10 what the problems are. We're losing coastal wetlands at  
11 an alarming rate. Many of the problems are manmade.  
12 We've done it for better or for worse because we want to  
13 live and work in the wetland environment. These have had  
14 some direct impacts, and it also some secondary impacts we  
15 never anticipated. We've disrupted hydrology, and now the  
16 marshes just can't keep up with natural forces. Over  
17 thousands of years subsidence has always been there,  
18 faulting has always been there, storms have always come  
19 ashore. But the difference was, the marshes were  
20 healthier; they had sediment supplies and nutrient  
21 supplies and they could just keep up. They could accrete  
22 vertically to keep up with the forces pushing them down.  
23 That's not necessarily the case now. So what we're trying  
24 to do with this study is address these problems on that  
25 fundamental level.

So a little bit of history. Some of you know this,

1 some of you don't. Back in 1965 was the first real big  
2 nod from the federal government that there was an  
3 environmental problem in coastal Louisiana. And we ended  
4 up with an authorization that eventually became the  
5 Caernarvon and Davis Pond/Freshwater Diversion Structures  
6 that pull off the Mississippi River. It was authorized  
7 initially in 1965, but it wasn't until the mid-80s when  
8 the state voluntarily paid twenty-five percent of the cost  
9 that they actually got billed. So that accounts for most  
10 of the delay. But again, the first real nod from the  
11 federal government that there was a problem that needed to  
12 be addressed.

13         Nineteen sixty-seven was the -- was where we draw  
14 our authorization for this current effort from; congress  
15 passed to authorize the Corps of Engineers to do these  
16 sorts of studies and reporting efforts. Our authorization  
17 goes all the way back to 1967.

18         Nineteen eighty-nine was the Waterstead date --  
19 Mayor Randy Roach is very familiar with. And then you  
20 state in Act XI, providing the state both the staffing and  
21 the funding to participate in a restoration program. And  
22 that allowed in 1990 for the federal government followed  
23 suit with CWPPRA, the Breaux Act; that has been the  
24 dominant mechanism for us to implement restoration  
25 projects in this state since about 1990. And of course  
the Breaux Act produced a plan in 1993, and in 1998 we

1 introduced the 2050 plan. Again, addressing the problems  
2 at the fundamental levels of processes that were  
3 disrupted, restoring health to the ecosystem on a large  
4 scale.

5 And in 2002, we initiated this comprehensive study  
6 that we're here to talk to you tonight about. I do this  
7 everywhere I go: I point out the last word on this slide  
8 does say "study," but I don't want you to be offended by  
9 that word. We are all aware of what the problem is out  
10 there, so we don't need to do more investigation to figure  
11 out what the problem is. What we're trying to do is put a  
12 report together to go to congress for action. So don't  
13 see study. It's a federal term, but don't be alarmed.  
14 What we're doing is putting together a report for action.

15 So when you see that, it's a report for action. A  
16 little note on the magnitude of the problem. By this  
17 estimate, everything we've done to this date through  
18 CWPPRA, through state programs, through Caernarvond, Davis  
19 Pond, will only address about twenty-eight percent of the  
20 land loss problem. Obviously seventy-two percent of the  
21 problem is not addressed. That's a big problem, and  
22 that's what we're here to talk about tonight.

23 So the goal: Obtaining a federal and statewide  
24 commitment to a large scale restoration program in coastal  
25 Louisiana. Again, 1998, the Coast 2050 Plan, Watershed  
date, all twenty coastal parishes passed resolutions of

1 support for that plan. Tremendous consensus in the  
2 coastal zone about what we needed to do. However, to  
3 implement a multibillion dollar program you've got to go  
4 further. You've got to go to the rest of the state and  
5 get them to understand that there is a problem that needs  
6 fixing. And then you've got to go further than that.  
7 You've got to go to the rest of the country and convince  
8 them that there's a problem and that they need to act. So  
9 we are trying to produce a report for 2004 which will  
10 provide our elected officials with the technical  
11 documentation they're going to need to take action.

12       So our objectives here -- and I can't say this often  
13 enough -- a July 2004 report to congress. For those of  
14 you familiar with the program as it exists today, this is  
15 lightening speed. This is one of the things we want to  
16 get across to you; that what we're trying to do is  
17 ambitious and it is fast paced, and we need you to stay  
18 informed and stay participating in the process to make  
19 this a success.

20       Collaborative effort: We have been working with the  
21 State of Louisiana. We've been working with five federal  
22 agencies through the Breaux Act, the Corps of Engineers,  
23 the EPA, Noah Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, and  
24 NRCS to implement CWPPRA. For this effort we've taken  
25 that several steps further. We are working with other  
agencies such as the Departments of Energy,

1 Transportation, FEMA, the USGS, our own State Department  
2 of Wildlife and Fisheries have been more involved. And it  
3 has gone beyond just the local level. We have a tendency  
4 to work at the local level of the federal government. In  
5 this case, we're going beyond that; we're working with the  
6 regional level from Dallas to Vicksburg to Atlanta and  
7 then again up to Washington. So we're trying to -- in  
8 trying to build this national consensus, we are really  
9 working at all levels of government for about the first  
10 real effective time. So this is going to help us out a  
11 whole lot in trying to get a national consensus.

12       Programmatic authorization is another key difference  
13 between a traditional feasibility study and what we're  
14 doing for this effort. A traditional feasibility study  
15 goes out to one project and asks congress for permission  
16 to build it. What we're trying to do is go after some  
17 sort of authorization to put a program into place. Coast  
18 2050 had dozens of strategies that could result in  
19 literally dozens of projects. We can't afford to stay  
20 here and do them one at a time, so we've got to put a  
21 program in place that can get all these projects moving at  
22 the same time and start doing many things and get projects  
23 on the ground faster.

24       Implementation of the plant: We have to define how  
25 much -- first of all, how much is it going to cost.  
Second of all, how much of the total bill is the state

1 responsible for paying, and where are we going to find the  
2 money to do that. Productive management is the buzz word  
3 for getting the best science into the program. If we're  
4 trying to convince the rest of the state and the rest of  
5 the country that we're doing a good thing here, we have to  
6 let them know that the best scientists in the world are  
7 working on this project and, in fact, they are.

8         So what is going to be in this magical report of  
9 2004? First of all, this is -- you've seen versions of  
10 this no-action scenario; you've seen the Coast 2050 plan;  
11 you've seen all the other documents we prepare. All we  
12 have to do here is define what is at stake, not only to us  
13 here at the coastal zone, but, again, up the rest of the  
14 state and the rest of the country because there are  
15 economic consequences, environmental consequences that  
16 will be felt throughout the nation. We will have a  
17 recommended plan of sorts in this report that's based on  
18 the Coast 2050 strategies that many of you participated in  
19 developing. We will put a little bit more engineering  
20 detail on these things, a little bit more environmental  
21 analysis on them. However, the one difference is in a  
22 traditional feasibility study we could tell you down to  
23 how many nuts and bolts and yards of concrete it's going  
24 to take to build a structure. That's not going to be the  
25 case here. We were not going to be able to say this is  
the exact site, this is the exact capacity of anything



1 we're building out there. It's more of a -- a more  
2 detailed conceptual nature. We're going to have to finish  
3 up the technical analysis after 2004.

4 But here's another real big difference between what  
5 we're doing now and a traditional feasibility study: it's  
6 going to be heavily emphasizing a programmatic  
7 implementation of strategy. If someone was extremely  
8 benevolent and came down and gave us fourteen billion  
9 dollars tomorrow we would be very happy, but it would be  
10 hard for us to manage that extremely large amount of work.

11 So this first part of our program of management deals  
12 with how can the federal and state government interact to  
13 get that work done quickly and in the appropriate manner.

14  
15 Federal and state resources: I already touched on  
16 that... People and access to other engineering  
17 consultants. So we have to -- I am sorry, guys. This is  
18 like the worst night I've had. The funding resource and  
19 responsibilities I've talked on.

20 Science-based decision/support systems: How can we  
21 keep the best science past 2004? How can we make sure  
22 that as we continue to develop an understanding of the  
23 solutions, it feeds back into the program and we continue  
24 to have the best science?

25 And delegated authority: This is the absolute key  
that we need to talk about tonight. Traditional process -

1 - keep going back to that. We produce a report here at  
2 the local level, the course submits that to Vicksburg.  
3 They submit it to their headquarters in Washington. They  
4 submit that to the assistant secretary in the Army in  
5 Washington, on to congressional committee, on again to the  
6 full floor of the senate and the house for debate and  
7 authorization. Obviously that takes a long time.  
8 Delegated authority: we're looking to get into our plan  
9 enough of a nod from congress that the solutions contained  
10 in the plan are appropriate and worth doing, if they would  
11 feel comfortable saying a lower level of body can  
12 authorize it and get us into the money. So instead of  
13 going all the way to the full floor of the congress we  
14 will go to committees, or we will go to the assistant  
15 secretary of the Army for Civil Works. But all the time  
16 we shave off that authorization is time that we get  
17 projects on the ground faster. So this is a very critical  
18 key in this plan we're putting together.

19 Proneumatic Environmental Impact Statement: I've  
20 already said we're not going to be able to say everything  
21 goes right here and this is exactly what it's going to do.

22 So when you look at a normal feasibility -- a normal  
23 environmental impact statement, it will tell you down to  
24 an approximation where isohalines are going to be, where  
25 the fishers are going to move to. In this case, it's not  
going to be quite as specific; it's going to frame the

1 issues. So we can say if we put freshwater here these are  
2 the sorts of impacts you can expect. Again, post 2004,  
3 when the program is in place, we have to go back and  
4 finish up the detailed environmental impact reporting, and  
5 you all will be a part of that as that develops.

6       Keystone Strategies: This is basically a digestion  
7 of what's in the Coast 2050 Plan. There are other things,  
8 but the solutions we're really looking at for this plan  
9 we're putting together are making sure the river -- in  
10 this case, it's mainly the Mississippi and Atchafalaya  
11 River. But the point is freshwater back into the estuaries  
12 so the saltwater stays further outward where we're used to  
13 seeing it.

14       Barrier Shoreline Restoration: This includes not  
15 only the barrier islands in the eastern part of the state,  
16 but the Chenier coastline here as well. We need to keep  
17 the gulf where the gulf is, out of our wetlands, out or  
18 bays, and out of our homes hopefully.

19       Saltwater Intrusion Control: I know you guys are no  
20 strangers to that here in Lake Charles. With reductions  
21 in freshwater movement into our estuaries the saltwater  
22 tends to move further up, and that creates problems for  
23 wetlands and other uses.

24       Again, here's just a picture of what I've been  
25 talking about. The normal reporting process here is do  
your feasibility report, do your engineering design, build

1 it and operate. That's great for one project, but it  
2 doesn't work very well if you're trying to do two dozen  
3 things at the same time. So if you live on the bottom,  
4 this is the program we're trying to put into place. This  
5 demarkation here, this red line into the yellow, that's  
6 where we'll be in 2004. We'll put the plan together,  
7 we'll get the congressional nod, and then proceed straight  
8 into detailed engineering and design on some of these  
9 projects, on to new construction and then operation. So  
10 we're going to have many different things going on at the  
11 same time.

12 And typically we go to congress and we ask for  
13 permission to build a project, one project. That's full  
14 authorization. In this feasibility report we're putting  
15 together, we're going to have three different levels of  
16 authorization. The first one is the traditional one.  
17 We've done enough technical work. We've done enough  
18 environmental documentation that congress says you know  
19 what you're doing; go ahead and build this thing right  
20 now. There will be no delay on that one. The second  
21 group is the group I just talked about with delegated  
22 authority. We've done enough work and enough  
23 documentation that if congress understands that it's a  
24 worthwhile solution, a worthwhile project, and you don't  
25 need to come back to the whole body, you can just come  
back to a lower level and get approval to build the

1 project.

2       The last group is group three. That's the group  
3 where, unfortunately, some things are so complex, so  
4 expensive, and just so difficult to wrap our heads around  
5 before 2004 we will not have done enough work to even get  
6 that delegated authority through congress. So we will  
7 have to do a more detailed work, go back to congress for a  
8 full authorization.

9       We are doing a number of technical studies right  
10 now. The first one is plan formulation; that's the basics  
11 of what Ms. Hawes will talk to you about tonight. How are  
12 we putting the 2050 strategies, the concepts, in there?  
13 How are we putting more detail on that and putting it into  
14 a comprehensive plan for coastal Louisiana?

15       The rest of those, socioeconomic and so forth, those  
16 are the technical documents that we do have to finish out  
17 the analysis reported on before we build a project. We're  
18 making headway on every single one of these right now. It  
19 will not be the final level of detail. We will have to  
20 figure some up after 2004.

21       And public involvement is what brings us all here  
22 tonight. As I said, we'll produce the best technical  
23 documentation we can for our elected officials to  
24 consider, but we need you guys to weigh in on what you  
25 think of what we're doing. It's a democratic process. We  
need to hear what you think about it. We need to hear if

1 you support it and what you don't like about it even. So  
2 there are two real questions here: How can you be  
3 informed? How can you participate? I'll take the easy  
4 one first, how can you be informed? Be on our mailing  
5 list. A lot of you probably got a study -- or a public  
6 meeting notice mailed directly to your house. If you did  
7 not, there's a little three by five card over there on the  
8 table that has a spot for your name and address. Please  
9 fill that out before you leave tonight because the next  
10 time we come back out here in April, we will mail a notice  
11 directly to your house and you'll get that as quick as  
12 possible.

13       The second way you can be informed for those of you  
14 who have internet and e-mail, if you go to the CWPPRA  
15 website you can sign on to the Breaux Act newsflash, an  
16 electronic newsletter that will tell you what we're doing  
17 for this study, what CWPPRA is doing, if there are other  
18 related activities. You'll find out about it right on  
19 your desktop.

20       Attend LCA public meetings. You're here. You've  
21 done this one. This is good. Bring a friend next time.  
22 There are some empty chairs here. We want to fill this up  
23 and we want to have to go to a bigger room next time. So  
24 this is one of the key ways you can be informed. You can  
25 visit our website, coast2050.gov. And these last two  
really kind of work together. If you had gone to our

1 website last week you would have seen my presentation on  
2 there. You would have seen the script. You would have  
3 been able to look through it, see what I was going to say,  
4 digest it, do a little research if you wanted to, and come  
5 answer -- come get any remaining questions answered. And  
6 if you have other things that we aren't considering you  
7 could have brought that in. We understand it's kind of a  
8 burden to bring lots of information to the public and give  
9 it to you cold and ask you for comments. We're trying to  
10 avoid that in this case. So we'll get this information  
11 out there as much in advance as we can to prepare you to  
12 come help us out.

13         And you can request presentations. We will go  
14 anywhere and talk to just about anybody. So if you're a  
15 member of some sort of civic group, church group,  
16 anything, let us know if you want a presentation. We are  
17 more than happy to come out, tell you what we're doing,  
18 inform you about the problems and solutions.

19         But participation is the real key. You can do any  
20 number of things depending on how into it you want to get.

21         If you just want to participate, make some comments,  
22 there are many ways to do that. First one, again, come  
23 and hear these meetings. We'll have more. We'll be back.

24         So this is not your only chance.

25         Comment on the website: We have a nice little  
comment card if you click on our meeting details. You

1 just type your comments in right there; it goes basically  
2 straight to me and straight to my counterpart at the  
3 Corps, and we can address your comments directly.

4       You can write letters or e-mails to document your  
5 concerns. Write them to just about anybody; it's quickest  
6 to get them to me and to my counterpart, Troy Constance.  
7 I guess his address is on our comment card. Writing to us  
8 is the quickest way to get into the study, but anybody you  
9 write to I'm sure will get it too.

10       Encourage your local, religious, trade,  
11 environmental group to be involved in this study.  
12 Sometimes you are members of groups already, but they are  
13 not heavily involved in coastal issues. We would welcome  
14 the opportunity if you would take it upon yourself and get  
15 them involved. The more groups we can talk to, the more  
16 various interest groups we can talk to, the better we're  
17 able to represent what has to happen to coastal Louisiana.

18       If you are already a member of a group that is involved  
19 in coastal issues -- or if you're not a member, join some  
20 group that is. The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana  
21 for example is a good group to join if you want to help  
22 shape an agenda.

23       Encourage federal interest: I would also add state  
24 interest to this. We have a representative down in  
25 Lafourche Parish who says write me a letter. So we went  
out to Larose the other night and said this man wants your



1 letters. Your legislators, your state senators, your  
2 congressmen, your federal senators, they need to  
3 understand what you want from this effort.  
4

5         And the last one is one of the interesting ones that  
6 we don't, you know, we don't really emphasize enough  
7 sometimes. But again, building a statewide and national  
8 consent means we've got to move beyond the coastal zone of  
9 Louisiana. Many of you have friends and family who don't  
10 live south of I-10. They live in North Louisiana. They  
11 live in Idaho, in New York or some place that has a lot of  
12 votes in congress. You've got to make sure if you really  
13 want action in Louisiana that they are as informed as you  
14 are and that they can then write to their congressmen,  
15 their senators, and tell them what they think needs to be  
16 done in coastal Louisiana. Because we have to have that  
17 national consensus.         We are coming back. This is not  
18 the only time we'll be here. We're coming back probably  
19 in April. What you're going to get tonight is a broad  
20 brush of where we stand in the study. It's not incredibly  
21 detailed, but it's enough to let you know exactly where we  
22 are. I mean it's literally all we have right now; broad  
23 outlines of our thinking right now. However, we are in  
24 the process of putting a lot more detail on the outlines  
25 that Ms. Sue will present to you later. When we come back  
out, we'll get you all that detail that we've got. We're

1 also developing a lot of our evaluation tools to let you  
2 know what we project the impacts will be in some range.  
3 So next time you come out, next time we come out to talk  
4 to you, we'll have a lot more detail for you. But tonight  
5 you will be oriented enough to understand where we're  
6 going with this to keep informed and keep on top of  
7 things.

8       The last one: Where? We don't know. We came to  
9 Lake Charles because Mayor Roach has a nice facility and  
10 we thought we could reach the most people; it's a central  
11 location. We could have gone somewhere else. We didn't  
12 know. If you have some place that's better, if you hear  
13 people say I would have gone but it wasn't close to me,  
14 let us know that. We need to know where is the best  
15 location to go to reach the most people. So again, that's  
16 all fair game on the comments' card. Go to Cameron. Go  
17 to the Rockefeller Refuge and see Tom Hasson Guthry. You  
18 know, go see these people. Let us know where's the best  
19 way to reach you, and we would appreciate that. But again  
20 -- we say this everywhere we go now -- we are about  
21 producing this document for congress, but we are also  
22 about asking you to help us shape what's in the document,  
23 but then let the elected officials know what you want done  
24 with it. And I'm going to stop talking because I'm  
25 tripping over my tongue tonight, and I'm going to turn it  
over to Sue Hawes who will provide an outline of where we

1 actually stand.

2 MS. SUE HAWES:

3 This is a team job, so while I talk for a little bit  
4 Jon will switch to my presentation. I did him a favor by  
5 getting his out, so now he's returning it. So I'm very  
6 pleased to see all you people. I'm Sue Hawes from the  
7 Corps of Engineers, and we're certainly glad to be here.  
8 And what I want to do tonight is, first of all, hope that  
9 this remote works; and second, let you know what we've  
10 accomplished so far.

11  
12 The first thing we've had to do was figure out what  
13 is going to happen to the coast in the future if we do  
14 nothing. Of the last loss rates we had were from 1983 to  
15 1990, and those are kind of old. So we had an interagency  
16 team that developed -- figured out what the loss rate was  
17 between 1990 and 2000, and that was nearly twenty-four  
18 square miles a year across the coast. And we have done  
19 this in enough detail that we were able to project where  
20 the land loss might occur. Now this is just an educated  
21 guess and this is a draft map, so I would not buy or sell  
22 real estate by looking at this. I would not move my camp  
23 because of this. It's just a guess. And now this is your  
24 area, what we call subprovince four, the Mermentau and  
25 Calcasieu-Sabine Basins, everything from the freshwater  
bayou over to the Sabine River. And you can see the past

1 loss is in pink. The future loss in red, and gains are in  
2 dark and light green. Let's see if I can do this. Yes,  
3 please go back one. In order to plan a project you need  
4 to have a target. And so our targets were, number one, we  
5 thought, well, if we think small, we'll just reduce the  
6 loss. Without doing anything, we'll lose five hundred  
7 square miles across the coast. We can try to lose just  
8 two hundred and fifty square miles, reduce the loss in  
9 half. Or we can try to achieve a no net loss and have no  
10 loss. Well, that doesn't mean we're just going to freeze  
11 your marshes. Some of them are going to continue to be  
12 lost, but then we'll gain land by our projects in other  
13 areas and we'll reduce the loss and still others. So at  
14 the end of the years we'll still have the same number of  
15 acreage of marsh that we had in 2000. Or we can think  
16 really big, and we've sort of done that over here where  
17 your loss rate is lower. We're going to see if we can  
18 enhance it and gain land at the end of fifty years.

19 This is the centerfold of the 1998 Coast 2050  
20 Report, and in that report we picked strategies that would  
21 help preserve the coast. They weren't detailed projects.

22 They were just ideas. And now what this whole study, the  
23 LCA is, is about putting some flesh on those scratches.  
24 So the first thing we did in the LCA was take the  
25 strategies from 2050 and pick keystone strategies. These  
were ones that were too expensive for the Breaux Act and

1 ones that would make fundamental changes in the ecosystem.

2 Someone said they do the most for the coast which has a  
3 nice ring. Well, we picked some keystone strategies over  
4 here in your subprovince. The two dots there mark -- the  
5 orange dots mark the Calcasieu and the Sabine, locks or  
6 gates to control salinity. The red right angle arrows are  
7 getting water out of the lake's subbasin in the Mermentau  
8 and getting it down into the saltier marshes south of  
9 Highway 82. The pale blue line on the coast is restoring  
10 the barrier shoreline, and the beige squares are creating  
11 marsh with the dredge material. Then you need various  
12 approaches and the kind of alternatives to reach those  
13 targets. So over here we have the large structural  
14 salinity control that would focus on the locks or gates in  
15 the navigation channels. Then an alternative way of  
16 controlling salinity is to control all of the uncontrolled  
17 bayous that go into the center of the two basins. A lot  
18 of them have controls on them now, but we could put  
19 controls on all of them. And that we call perimeter  
20 salinity control. Or you could have an approach that  
21 focused on just introducing freshwater into the area.

22 Then who -- and Jon has already touched on this --  
23 but who is going to pay the fourteen billion dollars?  
24 Well, people in coastal Louisiana are; and then a teacher  
25 up in Monroe; the grocer in Dry Prong; my sister out in  
Southern Idaho but they don't have many votes in congress;

1 and my two sons in Massachusetts where they do have a few  
2 more votes in congress. And then every tax payer in the  
3 country is going to have to help pay for this. But then  
4 every tax payer in the country gets something for it, too.

5 Because if we keep our coast restored we'll keep the oil  
6 flowing north, the gas. We'll keep our bountiful seafood  
7 harvest. We can share with the rest of the country. And  
8 if we're going to spend our money and their's, we need to  
9 show people that we have the very best plan; that we have  
10 looked at a whole bunch of different alternatives and  
11 picked the best one. And so that's what the rest of my  
12 talk is going to be about, looking at the alternatives.

13 Okay. In this area we have the structural approach,  
14 large structures. We have the perimeter salinity control  
15 and that freshwater introduction. And let's see... again.

16 Then under structural we have the three targets: reduce  
17 the loss, maintain the loss, or gain some land. We have  
18 the same under the perimeter, the same three targets. And  
19 under freshwater we have the same three targets. So this  
20 gives us nine alternatives in the subprovince four, plus  
21 one more in the future with no action.

22  
23 And then how are we going to do this? Well, we've  
24 got to take all those measures that we developed and we've  
25 got to keep some strategies or ideas. We've got to  
develop what is to reach each of those keystone

1 strategies. So a few of the measures will reach to reduce  
2 a few more or bigger ones will reach the maintain target,  
3 and finally you're going to need a fair number of measures  
4 to reach the enhanced. And then what I want to talk --  
5 what I want to do now is just focus on the large  
6 structural approach, and I want to show you the range of  
7 measures, all the measures we looked at in this large  
8 structural approach. One is to reduce/maintain, reduce or  
9 enhance; just so you have an idea of what we're looking at  
10 and how we plan to get there. And these -- right now  
11 these are very detailed. They say we want -- they're  
12 going to have to say we want to put this much water under  
13 Highway 82 right here. And the reason we've got to do  
14 that is that we've got to develop a cost, we've got to  
15 develop benefits, we've got to model it. And so you've  
16 got to have details for that. Then when we get to the  
17 final plan it'll be a much less detailed thing. We can  
18 say, well, we want to put a total of maybe ten thousand  
19 CFS under Highway 82 somewhere from Pecan Island over  
20 toward Rockefeller Refuge. You know, it won't be  
21 detailed, because then -- and we'll go to Washington with  
22 that. And then when Washington gives us the authority to  
23 do it, we'll write project information reports that will  
24 be detailed. There will be an EIS, and there will be  
25 plans for how to do it; you know, they need culverts this  
size; you need an inflow channel that size. So that's

1 what we hope to do. What you're going to see are fairly  
2 detailed, but that's only because they've got these so we  
3 can develop benefits and costs.

4       So for the large structural salinity control we are  
5 looking at put locks or gates, like I said, in the mouth  
6 of the Calcasieu and the Sabine. We're looking into  
7 little alternatives like putting in, you know, a little  
8 bypass around the Calcasieu. We're looking at several  
9 sites for freshwater introduction across Highway 82 and in  
10 other places and against the locks to get it into the  
11 Mermentau Basin. And we're looking at some marsh creation  
12 with dredge material on the Sabine Refuge. Then we're  
13 looking at perimeter salinity control. You've got all of  
14 those orange crosses that are small salinity structures in  
15 the mouth of a whole bunch of uncontrolled bayous that is  
16 protecting the barrier shoreline that's -- you know the  
17 mud stream has gotten a fabulous parkway over toward  
18 Rockefeller; it's building land. But west of there it's  
19 eroding sometimes sixty or seventy feet a year; we'll try  
20 to stop that. And then there will be a few freshwater  
21 introductions.

22       And finally, in the last one, the freshwater  
23 introduction we protect the barrier shoreline. We'd have  
24 a small structure over here at the causeway and the Sabine  
25 River, and we'd have some marsh creation. So those are  
the measures we're looking at. So you have some idea of



1 how we think we can save your coast. And so, Jon, would  
2 you mind explaining that? We're in the process of having  
3 modeling done on these. We're developing benefits and  
4 costs, and by the end of April or May we'll come back to  
5 you, hopefully, with what we call the final array of  
6 alternatives where we know much better which of these  
7 we're going to pick. And we'll be able to then get your  
8 input about what you think of those. And then maybe a  
9 month later we'll be back again, say this is the one we've  
10 chosen; what do you think of it? So, you know, should we  
11 change it? So we need your input. We need your comments.

12 This one, my presentation and Jon's, are on the web page,  
13 and John and I will stay around with other team members:  
14 Darrell Clark from Fish and Wildlife Service who helped  
15 develop this plan is here. We'll try to answer any  
16 question you've got. So thank you.

17 MS. DUNCAN:

18 Thank you Jon and Sue. We've reached the portion of  
19 the meeting where it's time for question and comments.  
20 I'd like to remind everyone to -- when you come to the  
21 center of the room to the microphone that you give us your  
22 name and your affiliation and where you're from. I ask  
23 that you limit your questions to one at a time. If you  
24 have multiple questions, let's try to get through everyone  
25 before we answer multiple questions. Or, you can ask Jon  
and Sue at the end of the presentation your personal

1 questions.

2 Also, if you can try and limit your comments to less  
3 than a minute... I know that's kind of hard, so I won't  
4 be too hard if you go over a minute.

5 I'm going to go and start with the cards first that  
6 were turned in, and then once we go through those cards,  
7 then we can open it up to everyone. I believe that Mayor  
8 Roach had a few comments that he would like to share. You  
9 want to defer to -- okay, that's fine. And these are in  
10 no particular order. Sherrill Sagrera from Vermilion  
11 Parish. Are you here, Sherrill? Did I say that right?

12 MR. SAGRERA:

13 Yeah. I'm Sherrill Sagrera. I'm a land owner.

14 MS. DUNCAN:

15 Can you turn that mic on? It's not on. Thank you,  
16 Scott.

17 MR. SAGRERA:

18 I'm a land owner in the wetlands, and I serve on the  
19 advisory committee for Vermillion Parish on Coastal 2050.

20 I have one concern about the -- we talking about  
21 inconsistency between the agencies is -- I think is a  
22 problem. If we can't get the agencies to get together to  
23 have the same goal, regardless of their affiliation or  
24 their mission as an agency, we're not going to get this  
25 plan really together. We can't -- everybody has to work  
together for one goal, not working against each other. If

1 we don't do that, like I say, we're not going to get this  
2 plan off the ground.

3 MS. DUNCAN:

4 Those are very good points, Mr. Sagrera. Jon or  
5 Sue, would you like to respond?

6 MR. PORTHOUSE:

7 You are exactly right, and I think that sort of  
8 thinking has permeated the government now, believe it or  
9 not. That's one of the reasons we are working at the  
10 regional level, especially at the Washington level, to  
11 sort of develop that consensus and consistency top to  
12 bottom on what's the best way to proceed here. So we are  
13 working closer as agencies for this one common goal.

14 MR. SAGRERA:

15 Yeah. Well, you know, I know Fisheries has one  
16 goal, Wildlife has one goal, ETA has a goal, the Corps has  
17 a goal. Until we can get everybody trying to achieve the  
18 same goal, we won't get anywhere.

19 MR. PORTHOUSE:

20 That's correct. Unfortunately, you know, we're  
21 never going to be able to get them all with the same goal,  
22 but they will all be consistent, and they will all be  
23 working on the same page on this effort if we do things  
24 right.

25 MR. SAGRERA:

All right. That's my first one.

1 MS. DUNCAN:

2 Thank you, Mr. Sagrera. Lucas James. Mr. James?

3 MR. JAMES:

4 Can I have four minutes?

5 MS. DUNCAN:

6 Sure. Four minutes.

7 MR. JAMES:

8 If you don't mind -- I'm Lucas James. If you don't  
9 mind, I'll read my comments.

10 MS. DUNCAN:

11 Can everyone hear Mr. James?

12 MR. JAMES:

13 Can you hear me?

14 MS. DUNCAN:

15 Speak directly into the microphone.

16 MR. JAMES:

17 Hello? Can you hear me?

18 MS. DUNCAN:

19 There you go. Thank you.

20 MR. JAMES:

21  
22 All right. I recently read an article entitled  
23 *Louisiana Barrier Islands, A Vanishing Resource*. It says,  
24 "Environmental consequences of coastal erosion in  
25 Louisiana may be severe." And it goes on to say, "Because  
these wetlands are nurseries for many species of fish and

1 shellfish the loss of the barrier islands and the  
2 accelerated loss of protective wetlands may have a  
3 profound impact on a billion dollar per year fishing  
4 industries supported by Louisiana's fragile coastal  
5 environment." The other remarks here are mine. The  
6 literature I read indicates that the loss of shoreline and  
7 coastal marshes has been recorded by aerial photography  
8 for at least fifty years. The rate of loss is said to  
9 average about thirty-five square miles a year. That  
10 equates to about one thousand seven hundred and fifty  
11 square miles which is alleged to have been lost in the  
12 past fifty years. One would think that a decreased shore  
13 and marshland would impair the seafood nursery that's  
14 affected that loss and rate of loss to have become very  
15 noticeable to this time. I would like to call to your  
16 attention that for at least fifty years the National  
17 Marine Fishery Service and other agencies such as  
18 Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, LSU Agricultural  
19 Department, Texas A&M University, have been monitoring the  
20 landings of fish, shrimp, and crabs brought into the  
21 Louisiana commercial fishermen. Their records not only  
22 give the annual totals, but also the monthly catches of  
23 seafood in Louisiana coastal waters. Their data shows the  
24 while there is considerable variations in catch from month  
25 to month, from year to year, the catch has increased  
throughout the year.

1           For example, the catch of crabs in 1950 would run  
2 about three thousand to four thousand metric tons a year.

3       During the 1970s the catch was running four thousand to  
4 seven thousand metric tons a year. In the 1980s the catch  
5 had increased to eight thousand to twenty-four thousand  
6 metric tons a year. After hurricane Andrew, the catch  
7 dropped back to sixteen thousand metric tons per year, and  
8 by 2000 it had reached twenty-three thousand metric tons  
9 per year again. Shrimp catch in the 1950s was running  
10 thirty-eight thousand to twenty-six thousand metric tons a  
11 year. Nineteen ninty-eight and '99, the catches increased  
12 to fifty thousand and fifty-one thousand metric tons a  
13 year. And by 2000 and 2001, 2001 not being complete, we  
14 had record catches of sixty-two thousand and fifty-four  
15 thousand metric tons per year for shrimp. Mullet catch in  
16 the 1960s and '70s was two hundred and forty metric tons.

17       In 1985 the catch had increased to fourteen hundred  
18 metric tons. And in 1999 to 2000 the catches exceeded  
19 three thousand metric tons.

20       There is ample evidence that the landings of seafood  
21 have increased greatly over the same period that the  
22 coastal erosion has increased. Those tonnages of seafood  
23 would not have been caught if they were not there. And  
24 the increased tonnage would not have been possible if our  
25 loss of wetlands per square miles had impaired the nursery  
from which those sea creatures came. In fact, a good

1 argument could be made that the nursery had increased in  
2 productivity as the square miles have been lost. It would  
3 appear that, based on the solid proof of evidence of  
4 increased productivity of our Louisiana Fishery, that  
5 could be very dangerous to tamper with it, other than  
6 attempting to seed more square miles of marsh with  
7 vegetation of a type that's concurrent in increased depth  
8 of the subsided marshlands. Such vegetation could  
9 gradually build up subsided marshland. Thank you. Lucas  
10 James.

11 MS. DUNCAN:

12 Thank you, Mr. James. Jon, would you like to  
13 respond?

14 MR. PORTHOUSE:

15 First of all, those are all very insightful  
16 comments, and I'm going to try to answer it very shortly  
17 and then I'll point you to our team expert on this issue;  
18 she's in the audience today. So you can talk to her more  
19 in depth. It is true that landings have increased, but  
20 there's a relationship between wetland -- not only wetland  
21 barrier and fisheries production, but also the amount of  
22 edge or access that the fish have to get from the bays and  
23 lakes into the marsh. As the wetlands have began to  
24 deteriorate, we've lost area, but they've had increased  
25 access because we have a lot more edge. So at a point it  
kind of balances out. We lose area but we gain edge. So

1 the fisheries either increase or stay steady. However, we  
2 are getting to a point fairly soon, potentially, where the  
3 decrease in area is going to be so overwhelming that the  
4 increased edge is not going to be able to support the  
5 increased fisheries. So that's the real short answer.  
6 And again, Joy Marino -- waive your hand back there --  
7 from Noah Fisheries, the agency I mentioned, she's here to  
8 talk to you if you have any further questions on that.  
9 But it's true, right now we're compensating because we  
10 have more edge; that's not going to last forever.

11 MS. HAWES:

12 There is a lot of evidence that as erosion increases  
13 you lose edge, and pretty soon you start losing edge as  
14 well as marsh. And then there are maps and published  
15 documents that show that fisheries that have been doing  
16 this do bad; they just crash. And that's what we're  
17 afraid of. Nobody knows when that will occur, but it will  
18 be bad when it does and none of us want to see it happen.

19 MS. DUNCAN:

20 Thank you, Mr. James. The next person I have on my  
21 list is David Richard. Mr. Richard, are you here? Hi.

22 MR. RICHARD:

23 How are you? I've got a number of comments. First,  
24 I'd like to welcome you to Lake Charles and I'd like to  
25 invite you back again for your next meeting. We do  
applaud it as a central location and always look forward



1 to having you here. Just a couple of issues that I need  
2 to address. One was just brought up by Mr. James. We in  
3 this community have failed miserably in educating the  
4 public the problems that we have. Right here in Calcasieu  
5 Lake what we've seen is because of the huge amount of  
6 losses in the here we had an increase in productivity,  
7 especially in the 50s, 60s and 70s. And now we've, not  
8 only leveled out, but decreased in our productivity. We  
9 had to go to huge amounts of money in appropriate control  
10 there and we've now stabilized those marshes through the  
11 work of many state and federal agencies. But the  
12 underlying fact is that we've not educated the public in  
13 that regard. And I would hope that this project would  
14 somehow incorporates that in there.

15       Second, I'd like to say something about the huge  
16 delays that we've seen. I would also like to promote in  
17 this study that, as you said, Mr. Porthouse, we need to  
18 get consensus from the Washington level on down. That's a  
19 real problem. Right now we've got five federal agencies  
20 and a state agency, none of which have any continuity and  
21 we all end up at cabinet level positions: Secretary of the  
22 Interior, Secretary of the Army, the head of the EPA. And  
23 I really think we need to bring that down to a level in  
24 Louisiana where that can be handled in a more efficient  
25 manner for projects to be on the ground. You saw Davis  
Pond proposed in Caernarvon in 1965 and we saw Davis Pond

1 open in 2002. We cannot take a thirty-seven-year delay.

2 I think the beneficial use has been only slightly  
3 done in your plan, and I'd like to see that used some  
4 more. And from a public standpoint, one of the things I'd  
5 like to know tonight as a question is that will some of  
6 these suggestions be incorporated hopefully before your  
7 next meeting?

8 Upstream manipulation is not shown in regard to your  
9 maps up here. We've got huge numbers of projects upstream  
10 in the Mermentau Basin and the Calcasieu Basin which  
11 address the change that hydrology needs to be addressed.  
12 If we're going to do an ecosystem planning approach then  
13 we need to look at that upstream drainage and we need to  
14 manage that upstream drainage in its historical manner,  
15 which means that the project is much larger than I see  
16 that you're showing here tonight. We need that complete  
17 ecosystem planning.

18 You've got freshwater reduction just there on  
19 Highway 82. We've experienced over the last six years  
20 here, we've had four years of extreme drought. It's a  
21 little hard to say that tonight when we had eighty-six  
22 inches of rainfall in Lake Charles last year. But when  
23 you look at it over the long term, we had huge droughts.  
24 My friends here from Vermilion Parish here on my left, we  
25 lost fifty thousand acres of rice in Vermilion Parish year  
before last because we didn't have any fresh water. We do

1 have freshwater capabilities to allow for freshwater  
2 reduction into the Mermentau Basin during periods of  
3 drought. I'm not talking about just rice production. I'm  
4 talking about huge amounts of wetland damage that were  
5 involved during that period. So I'd also like to see that  
6 incorporated in there. I just want to thank you for your  
7 time. Again, thank you for being here in Lake Charles.

8 MR. PORTHOUSE:

9 Mr. Richard, as usual you have so many things there.

10 I don't know how to address them all right now, so I'm  
11 going to come find you after the meeting. Don't go away.

12 I do want to address one issue you brought up and that  
13 is: are these going to be incorporated into the study?

14 Yes. The comments we received not only here, the other  
15 meetings, the website, letters, whatever, we take them  
16 all, we look at them all. We balance out the best way to  
17 handle them all and get them into the study as soon as  
18 possible. That's why we're here tonight. Before we get  
19 too far down the road, get your comments now. We still  
20 have time to make some adjustments in the study process.  
21 But for the rest of them, I need to talk to you afterwards  
22 and try to remember them all.

23 MS. HAWES:

24 I wrote them down. And one thing, the reason  
25 Caernarvon took half of forever was that it was authorized  
at a hundred percent federal, and it never got any funding

1 until the state stepped up to the plate and said we'll put  
2 in a voluntary twenty-five percent cost share. And it  
3 happened mighty quick after that. And then we are looking  
4 at introducing water in more places than just Highway --  
5 we were looking at the locks, LSU lock, some of those  
6 other places. I said it fast. Or, maybe I dreamed I said  
7 it.

8 MS. DUNCAN:

9 Thank you, Mr. Richard. Randall Hood?

10 MR. HOOD:

11 Hi. My name is Randall Hood. I'm here as a  
12 concerned citizen and also as a local contractor. I met  
13 Jon down at the meeting they had at Rockefeller Reserve a  
14 couple of months back. My problem is, is my company, we  
15 have an extensive experience in soil stabilization and  
16 land reclamation. We also have some specialized equipment  
17 that -- after discussing this with Mr. Sagrera -- that we  
18 feel would help you-all's program. And from what I've  
19 understood from some people, you-all were actually looking  
20 for. My problem has come up that for the past couple of  
21 months I have made numerous phone calls. I can't get any  
22 responses. I can't find any projects to bid, to looked  
23 at, discuss, anything. And a lot of them won't even  
24 return a phone call. And that's just -- I would just like  
25 to know where to go and who to call.

MR. PORTHOUSE:

1 I won't dare to speak for our fellow partners. From  
2 the state's standpoint, please give me your business card  
3 before you leave. I will personally carry it to our  
4 contracts people and get you on the bid list and make sure  
5 you get the notifications of these projects going out.

6 MR. HOOD:

7 And the people that I've contacted was on state  
8 level. I've gone to the Corps website and filled out  
9 lengthy applications and put -- and there I'm just, like I  
10 say, just trying to find out where to go.

11 MR. PORTHOUSE:

12 I'll have somebody call you probably within the week  
13 to work you through the problems from a state point of  
14 view anyway.

15 MR. HOOD:

16 Thank you.

17 MS. HAWES:

18 I will do the same from the Corps side.

19 MR. HOOD:

20 I sure appreciate that.

21 MS. DUNCAN:

22 Okay. Can we hear from Joe Champeaux?

23 MR. CHAMPEAUX:

24 My name is Joe Champeaux and I'm an architect. This  
25 is probably a dangerous group for me to be in, but it so  
happens that I'm a consultant with the City of Lake

1 Charles and the mayor. When he speaks, I'm sure he is  
2 going to tell you about one effort the City of Lake  
3 Charles is pushing, the creation of the wetlands center  
4 and the gateway into the State of Louisiana from the west  
5 ending over in New Orleans. I have -- I don't know a  
6 great deal about wetlands. I've surrounded myself with a  
7 team of experts like David Richard and some people from  
8 New Orleans who have experience in wetlands centers and  
9 good exhibits and the interactive teaching of people about  
10 wetlands.

11 My comment or question has to do with an article  
12 that I read in the Baton Rouge paper about three or four  
13 weeks ago about a settlement. A judge granted one hundred  
14 and fifty million dollars to a group of oyster harvesters.

15 This was, according to the article, the third such  
16 settlement in the last five years, six years. It doesn't  
17 seem like we're making progress if there are seven good  
18 guys out there like oyster fishermen, sports fishermen,  
19 commercial fishermen, oil and gas companies, people who  
20 make their living on the marsh, the public like us who  
21 reap the benefits of the productivity of the marsh. There  
22 are a whole bunch of good guys out there and they're not  
23 cooperating; they're fighting each other. And I hope the  
24 study will address each of the good guys who honestly make  
25 a living, or honestly enjoy the production of the marsh,  
but who can get mad enough to fight each other. And we're

1 not going to make much progress if we ignore where each  
2 one of them is coming from.

3 MR. PORTHOUSE:

4 Two things to say to that -- well, three things.  
5 First of all, you're correct; we do need to work harder on  
6 getting the message out and educating the people as to the  
7 benefits and effects of coastal restoration. This,  
8 tonight, this public meeting, is just one phase of what  
9 we're doing. We are trying to put together a more  
10 extensive plan to reach other state public groups and  
11 educate them about how it affects their interests and how  
12 they would prefer to see us do this. So that's one thing.

13 Second thing is, we do now have the governor's advisory  
14 commission on coastal restoration, and that was put  
15 together to address questions like that, to get all the  
16 good guys that are out there into one room at same time.  
17 There's thirty-one people; they get together every couple  
18 of months now, and they're working very hard with us to  
19 put some of these issues to rest.

20 MS. DUNCAN:

21 Okay. Thank you Mr. Champeaux. The next individual  
22 I have is Rodney Guilbeau.

23 MR. GUILBEAU:

24 I'm not going to go through the nineteen  
25 organizations that I'm affiliated with; it would take up  
more time than I'm allowed. But I have been involved with

1 coastal restoration since 1972, very actively since '78,  
2 and I know the time it takes to get things done. But we  
3 have to carry a positive attitude and not say no. We need  
4 to do something about the saltwater in Sabine Lake and  
5 Sabine Pass. We need to do the same thing in Calcasieu  
6 River and pass there. We need to do the same thing at the  
7 Mermentau and at the Vermilion. These are things that  
8 have to be controlled. We are now just about finished  
9 with the Holly Beach sand management and breakwater  
10 enhancement project. I'm glad to say five miles have been  
11 completed. It's a beautiful sand beach. We got another  
12 half a mile to go. And that took umpteen years to get  
13 that done. But thanks to all of the agencies who have  
14 worked together and who have done their share, we are  
15 very, very proud.

16       We need to do something about the saltwater problems  
17 at Oyster Bayou, Mud Lake, Second Bayou, all in that area  
18 there. A plan got voted down last year. We need to come  
19 up with another one. We need to get it to where it can  
20 satisfy the agencies. We may have had too many  
21 structures. We have to satisfy the fishermen. We have to  
22 satisfy the duck hunters. We have to satisfy the  
23 landowners, the cattlemen, and we have to satisfy -- we  
24 have to take care of the drainage. And we have to keep  
25 from losing the marsh. And we have been doing that --  
quite a bit of that. We -- I concur with the comments



1 that have been made by the previous folks. I'm glad to  
2 see a lot of new faces here tonight. I'd like to plug  
3 Cameron for the next meeting. We get more -- that's where  
4 the damage is, Cameron and Vermilion Parishes. I'd like  
5 to see one in Cameron and the next one in Abbeville or  
6 vice versa. I have no problem with either one. I was  
7 born in Vermilion Parish; I live in Cameron, so there's no  
8 problem there. We do have to take care of the shoreline  
9 at the Grand Chenier and all of that area, all of the  
10 lakes; all of that has to be done. I think that you're in  
11 the process of covering them.

12       These folks who are concerned, it's nice for them to  
13 be here. But the more meetings they make, the better  
14 informed they are. And it's wonderful to see that the  
15 Fisheries, the Corps, the Natural Resources, all of the  
16 organizations that work, now are beginning to talk to each  
17 other and work with each other and it's wonderful. Years  
18 ago when I first started trying to do something about  
19 erosion I would not get an answer to a phone call, or a  
20 personal call, or a letter. But now I don't have to worry  
21 about it. They contact me. So make yourself known and  
22 you will be contacted. It's just that simple. Thank you  
23 for coming.

24 MR. PORTHOUSE:

25       I've just got to say it's great to see you at public  
meetings. It's always a highlight for me to talk to you.

1       So thank you again for coming out.

2       MS. HAWES:

3               Amen.

4       MR. DUNCAN:

5               I want to be on your team.  Wherever you go, I want  
6       to follow you.  Next person, Caroline Wusley with the  
7       Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana.

8       MR. GUILBEAU:

9               Of which there are a few executive board members  
10      here.

11      MS. WUSLEY:

12              Yes.  Caroline Wusley, a newly elected board member  
13      of the CRCL, and also president-elect of Lake Charles's  
14      Team Green.  I want to say that at the national level we  
15      must emphasize that Louisiana is of strategic interest to  
16      the nation.  We're possibly of more strategic interest,  
17      for example, than Kuwait in terms of oil and gas, in terms  
18      of our production.  We must make that clear.  We must  
19      reach the urban centers of Louisiana.  We must reach the  
20      parishes north of the jeopardized parishes because they  
21      are our last line.  The jeopardized parishes are our last  
22      line of defense, our wonderful Cameron Parish for example.

23  
24              But my question to you -- and I will say that CRCL  
25      is bringing this to Jazz Fest, and we're bringing this to  
    Contraband Days, two top festivals in Louisiana, to try to

1 get all of our parish school kids involved, etcetera, at  
2 least on the information level.

3 But my question to you is this: What specific  
4 strategies do you have to examine to bring the economic  
5 parties to the table? We're all for this until we talk  
6 about putting locks up the basin of the Sabine River and  
7 at the Calcasieu. When do you plan to bring Texas to  
8 these discussions, and when do you plan to look at  
9 specific port expansion plans which are aggressive at our  
10 two westernmost rivers, and to examine in detail their  
11 plans for channel expansion? And I'm not against the  
12 economy. I'm just saying the devil is in the details.  
13 And the willingness to support locks creation, and what is  
14 your time line for these specific meetings?

15 MR. PORTHOUSE:

16 I don't know that I can provide you the exact  
17 specifics you're requesting right now. So many places...

18 Where to start? We are putting together right now a  
19 public participation plan which will include a lot of  
20 those bodies you've mentioned. We are also initiating an  
21 economic study within the Corps of Engineers. They have  
22 let out a contract to one of our consultants to begin the  
23 process of talking to pipeline companies, oil companies,  
24 people like that to make sure they understand the issues  
25 and we understand the issues from their point of view. So  
that's already happening now. But when it comes to ports

1 and navigation, we've got an effort on the lower Delta in  
2 the Mississippi. We're modeling that system to see if  
3 there's any way we can potentially change the system for  
4 the benefit of the marshes and the wetlands without having  
5 any real impacts on navigation. They're at the part of  
6 that team. They are in there with us doing that planning,  
7 so we are having some luck there.

8       Regarding the port expansions, the channel  
9 deepening, everything else, the challenge there is to make  
10 sure that the economic activity isn't just consistent with  
11 wetland restoration, but actually helps wetland  
12 restoration. Those things right now are being handled on  
13 a project by project basis. The Corps of Engineers is  
14 keeping a very watchful eye on that; specifically, if we  
15 dig a channel deeper, what do we do with the material? We  
16 want to create marshes. We want to make sure that we  
17 don't create any more saltwater intrusion problems or  
18 hydrology problems. So all of those things are going on.

19       There are many separate efforts that's kind of defused  
20 right now, but we're trying to get everything under this  
21 umbrella of coastal restoration, and it's starting to take  
22 into effect.

23       Regarding Texas, I'm going to refer you to Ms. Karen  
24 Gautreaux. You can talk to her after the meeting on that.

25       I'm not going to get myself into trouble on that one.  
But if there's any other questions you have, I can try to

1 answer them afterward. There's a long list, and I don't  
2 know if I got them all.

3 MR. DARRYL CLARK:

4 I can answer regarding Texas. Texas -- the Sabine  
5 Natchez waterway as you eluded to perhaps is Texas would  
6 like to expand the Sabine Natchez waterway and to over  
7 forty-five, fifty, fifty-five feet deep and also widen it.

8 And we have an interagency group looking at that, looking  
9 at the environmental possible adverse effects of this, and  
10 they also have a group looking at the economic benefits  
11 which will be greater to the ports of Beaumont and  
12 possibly Orange and then Port Arthur. So we do -- we have  
13 discussed the idea of a lock on Sabine Pass with regard to  
14 the Sabine-Natchez project as a means of mitigating or  
15 reducing the possible impacts of increased saltwater  
16 intrusion due to a larger channel. But right now that  
17 channel, that idea is being modeled by the Corps, the  
18 Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, and we are waiting for  
19 those model results which should come out in the next two,  
20 three months. So that issue has been brought forth. I  
21 will tell you that the navigation industry is not  
22 overjoyed with the idea.

23 MS. DUNCAN:

24 Yes. Ms. Wusley, would you like to ask another  
25 question?

MS. WUSLEY:

1           Just relating to that.

2 MS. DUNCAN:

3           Okay.

4 MS. WUSLEY:

5           It's such a competitive industry, why not just go to  
6 Corpus? Why would the navigation industry want to have to  
7 time its entrance -- you know, its ingress and egress to  
8 either one? It's a competitive situation. It seems to me  
9 that you have a question of trying to grab business. It  
10 seems that perhaps if, for example, we could do a CalCam  
11 Port, share the huge tax revenues, remove the whole port  
12 down the basin, for example. I do think that no one would  
13 go for this idea, but keep the business, shoot the stuff  
14 up north by rail real quick, you know, saves --

15 MR. GUILBEAU:

16           Or pipeline.

17 MS. WUSLEY:

18           Excuse me?

19 MR. GUILBEAU:

20           And pipeline. Oil, fuel, gas, energy.

21 MS. WUSLEY:

22           You know, think big. Think big. So I don't want to  
23 disrupt things, but I'm just wondering about, you know,  
24 we've got competition going on here, and we want to keep  
25 our business too.

MS. DUNCAN:

1           You raised some pretty interesting questions and  
2 some comments. Mr. Hood?

3 MR. RICHARD:

4           Richard.

5 MS. DUNCAN:

6           Richard. I was almost there, huh? I was close.

7 MR. RICHARD:

8           I'd like to answer a couple of things for Ms.  
9 Wusley. Number one, the Sabine Natchez Channel has been  
10 going on for some time. Sue, I'd like you to remember  
11 back in 1991 when we started CWPPRA. We invited the  
12 Galveston Corps. We have yet to see the Galveston Corps  
13 involved in Louisiana in restoration. Portions of region  
14 four that we're talking about here today are under the  
15 jurisdiction of the Galveston Corps. And I think that  
16 they need to be included in this process. The fifty foot  
17 by five hundred foot expansion over there in the Sabine  
18 Natchez channel is happening because we've had an  
19 expansion in Matagorda. We've had a fifty foot expansion  
20 in Houston. We're going to have the fifty foot expansion  
21 in Beaumont/Port Arthur for them to compete. And the next  
22 factor is right here in Lake Charles. So we need to come  
23 up with a way -- we need to get the Galveston Corps here  
24 in this plan.

25 MS. DUNCAN:

          Thank you, Mr. Richard. I have one card left.

1 Mayor Roach, I believe you wanted to make comments. Sue,  
2 did you want to mention something?

3 MS HAWES:

4 Dave, I'll go back and see what I can do about  
5 getting Galveston. You remember, David, they didn't want  
6 to play in the sandbox with us in 1991.

7 MR. RICHARD:

8 And they -- but they're affecting us, Sue. We need  
9 them. And so if they're going to do these kind of things  
10 that affects huge acreages we need to have them involved.

11 MS. HAWES:

12 Yeah. Well, we're thinking of putting a lock in  
13 their channels. They might want to be involved.

14 MS. DUNCAN:

15 Okay, Mayor Roach.

16 MAYOR ROACH:

17 Thank you. I have a couple of general comments  
18 while Rodney is rewiring the projector there. Keep that  
19 picture in mind.

20 MR. GUILBEAU:

21 Yeah. I want to come back to that picture.

22 MAYOR ROACH:

23 You want to make another comment Rodney?

24 MR. GUILBEAU:

25 When you're through.

MAYOR ROACH:



1           Okay. First of all, Mr. Earl, one of the comments  
2 that came to mind as you were making your comment is  
3 something I learned from a marine biologist years ago.  
4 John, are you a -- anyway, he's a marsh expert. John Roth  
5 has told me at one of our many early public meetings he  
6 made a comment to me that I remembered, but he probably  
7 doesn't remember making it, is that the most productive  
8 marsh is a dying marsh. And that's that bell curve I  
9 think that Sue was referring to, is that, you know, the  
10 production increases and just really, really magnifies or  
11 multiplies in terms of production and then all of a sudden  
12 it drops straight off. And we don't know where that point  
13 is, but I would imagine that with the rate of loss that  
14 we've been experiencing that we're rapidly approaching  
15 that point. So whatever that's worth... And I don't  
16 offer that as an expert; just a comment that I heard.

17           The other thing I wanted to mention to you in going  
18 back to the slide that was up there as far as the -- your  
19 subprovince four, and you had your shoreline restoration  
20 on the east side of the ship channel. And Rodney, Mr.  
21 Guilbeau, just mentioned to you the work that had been  
22 done on the west side of the ship channel. It's great.  
23 It's done well. I mean, it's -- the beach restoration  
24 project that we've been working on for many, many years.  
25 I guess my concern would be is that we haven't alleviated  
the cause of that massive erosion that was occurring in

1 that particular area that's being impacted now by this  
2 project. That erosion will continue. It's just a patch  
3 which is what we've done. It's a very expensive patch.

4 But I think that we also ought to look at that east side.

5 I think there ought to be some shoreline emphasis placed  
6 on the -- I'm sorry, on the west side of the Calcasieu  
7 ship channel because that is an area that has got some  
8 extreme vulnerability, and if we don't at least focus on  
9 that long term we're going to be right back where we were  
10 two years ago when we're talking about the need to do that  
11 future restoration project.

12 David mentioned this, and I'd also like the audience  
13 to sort of just keep in their mind right now or visualize  
14 in their mind the slide that you had earlier about who's  
15 going to pay fourteen billion dollars. And we started out  
16 with a couple of folks here and a couple of folks here and  
17 then all of a sudden, boom, the whole country. Well, let  
18 me tell you, I don't think it's going to be easy to  
19 convince the whole country, and I think that we have a  
20 major education process ahead of us. And what I'd like to  
21 just touch on very, very briefly this evening is the  
22 concept that we have of what we're calling America's  
23 Wetland Discovery Center. And we're using that word  
24 deliberately, "America's Wetlands," because these are not  
25 Louisiana wetlands -- Louisiana's wetlands; these are  
America's wetlands. And what is being devised as part of

1 the grant that was given by Shell Oil Company to the State  
2 of Louisiana is a strategic marketing program, educational  
3 program, called America's Wetlands, and it's an effort to  
4 educate the country on the significance of the wetlands.  
5 And part of that is the creation of a wetland trail. And  
6 if you're familiar with other areas of the country, you  
7 know that, for example, the Blue Ridge Parkway, the  
8 Appalachian Mountains and the different trails that move  
9 through that area have gotten a lot of attention and have  
10 got a lot of national significance. We feel, and I think  
11 that part of what is being promoted as far as our  
12 initiative to educate the country, is the establishment of  
13 the wetland trail of Louisiana. The idea would be is if  
14 there would be a focal point in both the east end and the  
15 west end, and of course we're talking here in Lake Charles  
16 as the west end, and our facility would be the trail head,  
17 so to speak, from the west, and we would designate it as  
18 America's Wetland Discovery Center.

19 I'm going to go very, very quickly and just kind of  
20 give you an overview. That's the proposed location which  
21 literally you walk outside the door, you take a look down  
22 the road here you'll see the facility that we're talking  
23 about. And that's where we'll locate the wetland center.

24 It'll be primarily an education facility. This is the  
25 website for America's Wetland, the campaign to save  
coastal Louisiana. That's right off the website. And of

1 course this project that we're talking about, the coastal  
2 trail of Louisiana, is a key part of that campaign. Okay.

3  
4  
5 We're going to go right through it real quick. All  
6 right. Here we go. The idea would be -- and we'll just  
7 stop at this slide. But the idea is that this particular  
8 facility, as you can see from the map there, would be a  
9 way in which you could introduce the visitor to Louisiana,  
10 the visitor to coastal Louisiana to a whole concept of who  
11 we are, what we are as far as the coastal region of  
12 Louisiana. And this is just one example of the  
13 interactive displays that would be constructed throughout  
14 the facility in a variety of rooms, in a variety of areas  
15 in which to educate the visitor. And not only the  
16 visitors to Louisiana, but to our own Louisiana residents  
17 of the significance of the wetlands. And as you can see  
18 there, there's a big, large map of the United States. The  
19 rain clouds would actually be raining, be falling on the  
20 map and into the tributaries and would show how the entire  
21 system that we have here and the entire tributary system  
22 that we have from the Mississippi River feeds into and is  
23 responsible for the creation of the wetlands in Louisiana.

24 So essentially what we have here is not, as I said  
25 earlier, the Louisiana wetlands, but these literally,  
almost literally, are the wetlands of America. And we

1 would have interactive displays, as I mentioned to you  
2 earlier... Wetland theater to kind of get you oriented  
3 towards what the wetlands are, an area where you would  
4 have an interactive display where you talk about the many  
5 organisms that are prevalent throughout the area. And  
6 then another map there of coastal region, a more detailed  
7 map of the coastal region of Louisiana. So part of that -  
8 - you see computer terminals that are there by these  
9 larger than life size maps of Louisiana and the coastal  
10 region. And then we have one area of course making it  
11 interactive and fun for the kids where they could actually  
12 go -- if you remember the movie *Honey, I shrunk the kids*,  
13 well, sort of a takeoff on that, where you can go into a  
14 marsh scene there where you have the different species  
15 that habit the marshlands and have them one hundred times  
16 larger than life and you get a pretty good feel for what  
17 the marsh really is and what goes on and how it feels to  
18 be a part of the wetlands in Louisiana. Something that's  
19 very visual and certainly has a lot of impact and  
20 certainly has a great deal of potential from a learning  
21 standpoint.

22       The next one is the call to action. As I mentioned  
23 to you earlier, the personality of Louisiana, the culture  
24 of Louisiana is, is we have what we have due in large part  
25 to the coastal region of Louisiana. We need to promote  
that. We need to educate the rest of the country about

1 the significance of our culture and where it comes from,  
2 its origins, and this would give us an opportunity to be  
3 able to do that.

4 This is an aviary which would be sort of a facility  
5 that would kind of capture the essence of a coastal -- the  
6 variety of the habitat in coastal Louisiana. And then we  
7 have the finale that you remember. This would be a  
8 theater area where you would have an interactive theater  
9 experience. If you are familiar with what is being done  
10 at Disney Land -- I mean, Disney World does this; I think  
11 they have an interactive theater where the seats move and  
12 you feel things brushing against you and what have you.

13 Actually, the idea here is that you would come and you  
14 would see a film. And it would be a film about Louisiana,  
15 about coastal Louisiana, and actually started, for  
16 example, in the upper regions of the Calcasieu estuary  
17 system, the upper area of the Calcasieu River, the Whisky  
18 Chitto where people now go canoeing. And it would bring  
19 you literally all the way down to that river system into  
20 the Big Lake area, into the coastal marshes, out into the  
21 Gulf of Mexico, all the way out to an area that we call  
22 the Flower Gardens of Louisiana, which is a coastal reef.

23 And that entire system is part of coastal Louisiana.  
24 That's how far the impact of the coast is felt from a  
25 marine biology standpoint, from the ecosystem standpoint.

The purpose is to educate visually that and to give

1 people an experience that they would remember.

2       The other idea would be to create an interactive  
3 displays and displays that would be able to be modified  
4 over time to modify the experience. We're working with  
5 the different federal agencies to give them a buy-in and  
6 to give them input in how we design it and put this  
7 facility together.

8       Basically that's a very quick overview of the  
9 system. But it gets back to educating: educating the  
10 people of Louisiana, educating the people of the country  
11 as to why fourteen billion dollars is a good investment in  
12 the wetlands that are so special and so unique. It's a  
13 very unique ecosystem. We're very proud of the fact that  
14 we can bring this to the nation's attention. But in order  
15 for you to be successful in what you're doing, in order  
16 for this project, this legislation to pass, there has to  
17 be a national call to action and it has to be a national  
18 sense of purpose. And we think this will be one way in  
19 which we can make -- may make the case and be a -- give  
20 us an opportunity on a long-term basis to educate and  
21 inform different groups and organizations about the  
22 importance of being a part of what we're trying to do from  
23 a restoration standpoint.

24 MR. PORTHOUSE:

25       We look forward to the day when we can all have a  
meeting like this in the discovery center. I think it'd

1 be an appropriate place. We would like to point out --  
2 and I keep forgetting to mention this. I don't know why.

3 We do have material over on the table from the America's  
4 Wetland Campaign. Over and over again, education turns  
5 out to be the key; education in costal Louisiana,  
6 education of the rest of the country. We do have this  
7 campaign going on. We have material over there that  
8 actually explains everything we're trying to -- most of  
9 the things we're trying to do.

10 If you have any questions on this, Kyle Rodriguez --  
11 waive your hand -- Kyle Rodriguez is the man. He can tell  
12 you everything there is to know about the America's  
13 Wetland Campaign, but as Mayor Roach points out it's key.

14 MS. DUNCAN:

15 Thank you, Mayor Roach. Now we can open up the  
16 meeting time to anyone that would like to speak. Is there  
17 anyone that would like to speak that hasn't stood up yet?

18 Yes.

19 MR. MILLER:

20 My name is Doug Miller. I represent Sweet Lake Oil  
21 Company and North American Land Company. If I recall, the  
22 last meeting we had we had a posterboard set up and  
23 everyone brain stormed all the potential problems that we  
24 foresee in this area. Just recalling what was put on that  
25 piece of paper, there was a lot of issues with shoreline  
erosion on the Gulf Intercostal Waterway, a lot of



1 problems in Grand Lake, White Lake with shoreline erosion.

2 I know there's a lot of CWPPRA projects and other  
3 possible funding sources that are dealing with these  
4 project, but were they left off of your map? I notice  
5 there seems to be a lot of holes in the map on the  
6 projects we presented at the last meeting as compared to  
7 what's on your current map. Are these projects left off  
8 intentionally, or if we're coming up with a comprehensive  
9 plan, what happens if those projects are not included in  
10 this when accepted?

11 MS. HAWES:

12 I'll try to answer that. Remember at the beginning  
13 I talked about keystone strategies being ones that were  
14 bigger than the Breaux Act could handle. Hopefully a lot  
15 of those things you brain stormed at one of the last  
16 meetings were small enough that they could be done in  
17 increments by the Breaux Act. Because we are sort of  
18 looking at the bigger things that we can do that might do  
19 more for the ecosystem as a whole because that -- but that  
20 doesn't mean by the time we get to writing -- you know,  
21 they may not be in this plan, but then when we get to  
22 writing, say, if we looked at the freshwater divergence  
23 introductions, when we got to that there might be a lot  
24 more places than we thought of right now to introduce  
25 freshwater and we'd considered those. So things aren't  
absolutely locked in, but we are trying to concentrate on

1 the bigger things.

2 MS. DUNCAN:

3 Hello.

4 JUDGE EDWARDS:

5 I'm Judge Edwards. I'm with the main corporation of  
6 Vermilion Parish, and I'd like to compliment Mayor Roach -  
7 - where did he go? -- on this and Mr. Champeaux and Mr.  
8 Richard. This is incredible. What's the time line?

9 MR. RICHARD:

10 We need fifteen million sharp.

11 JUDGE EDWARDS:

12 This is really impressive.

13 MR. RICHARD:

14 Randy may want to address that. It's a cooperative  
15 thing; a local, state and federal money that Randy is  
16 working for hard to fund.

17 MAYOR ROACH:

18 We went to Washington and we asked for federal  
19 agencies to get involved with us. We don't want to go too  
20 much further until we give the state and federal agencies  
21 an opportunity to sort of help us finalize the details.  
22 But this gives you an idea of conceptually what --

23 JUDGE EDWARDS:

24 But do you have a time line?

25 MAYOR ROACH:

Well, as David said, as soon as we get the money.

1 And we're probably going to break the project down into at  
2 least two phases, if not three, depending. But we're  
3 looking for some funding sources. We're trying to go  
4 forty, forty, twenty. Twenty local and forty state, forty  
5 fed.

6 JUDGE EDWARDS:

7 And it should be a mandatory stop for everybody  
8 coming in from Texas. A few things I'd like to speak to.

9 And I'll start with freshwater introduction, and that's  
10 what's up there. David mentioned when we need freshwater  
11 introduction most is during droughts. This is a closed  
12 system, the Mermentau Basin. We're going to try to flow  
13 it to the west in the Calcasieu Lake and south to the  
14 freshwater-starved marshes along the gulf. And when  
15 you're in a drought that basin doesn't have water. Water  
16 flows from the outside into the basin. So my question is,  
17 we're looking big picture, how are we going to divert  
18 water into the basin and from where?

19 MR. PORTHOUSE:

20 Let me take that first part. Again, you all know --  
21 you specifically well know that one of the strategies in  
22 the Coast 2050 Plan is managing the in-flows from the  
23 Mermentau River. Mr. Richard pointed that out earlier.  
24 It's -- that's about the only thing we can do to sort of  
25 spread out the water instead of getting a big rainfall and  
then flush it straight out into the gulf and then it's

1 gone. We don't have it for the rice farmers. We don't  
2 have it for the marsh. In the summertime basically is  
3 when it's a problem.

4 We do not have that specifically addressed right now  
5 in the plan as it stands. However, I think we could take  
6 that back and look at that in conjunction with the  
7 freshwater introductions we see here because it would  
8 really increase the effectiveness of that, maintain some  
9 freshwater in the system. And it does work better. So we  
10 can probably take that back and look at it.

11 JUDGE EDWARDS:

12 So really the project area is further to the north?

13 MR. PORTHOUSE:

14 Yeah, potentially. I mean, everyone in the  
15 tributary is on the Mermentau River has been screened and  
16 deepened to some extent over the last fifty years, so it  
17 becomes an issue of how to slow the water down in the  
18 upper part of the basin without flooding the residents up  
19 there so that it is available down here in coastal the  
20 zones.

21 JUDGE EDWARD:

22 My next question: In subprovince four we talked  
23 about perimeter control. That meant a lot to me, and the  
24 first time I heard it two nights ago I was a little  
25 excited. When I heard it tonight, I heard it a little  
differently. It sounds like we're talking about some

1 structures, but structures without anything that let --  
2 allow the water to flow around them don't do a lot of  
3 good. When we talk about perimeter control, are we  
4 talking more about levies and levy maintenance in addition  
5 to that?

6 MS. HAWES:

7 I think since Jon will have a fit if we don't say  
8 this that we're going to need structures that can allow  
9 fisheries access, and we're looking at -- I think it's up  
10 to the land owners to maintain the levies. But we  
11 definitely have to look at that. I mean, if you're trying  
12 to keep water out, you've got to make sure it don't get  
13 over the levy.

14 JUDGE EDWARDS:

15 I agree with you Sue, and I think you'll have a lot  
16 of landowner cooperation if the federal and state agencies  
17 will allow the private landowner to maintain the levies.  
18 And that's our problem to the east, and it's problems.

19 MS. HAWES:

20 Yeah. We understand.

21 JUDGE EDWARDS:

22 So, you know, we all need to get on the same page  
23 and allow us to do the work if we're going to move  
24 forward, you know. That's -- I don't know how to say  
25 that. We all want this to go forward, but there are some  
agencies, and as I stand here, some state agencies almost

1 more than some federal agencies, in my experience, that  
2 stand in its obstruction is to people trying to save what  
3 they have.

4 MS. HAWES:

5 It's something we're going to have to work out. I  
6 don't have a simple solution.

7 JUDGE EDWARD:

8 And with that said, beneficial use of spoil material  
9 was a strategy of 2050. David mentioned he'd like to see  
10 that incorporated more here. And obviously with the ship  
11 channel you have a lot of available spoil material. And  
12 the 2050 process -- again, I mentioned this last time --  
13 one of the beneficial uses of spoil material was suggested  
14 to be for levy repair and maintenance. And as the 2050  
15 document went through its final draft that specific thing  
16 was made so vague that you would really have to almost  
17 know that it was discussed in the initial meetings to know  
18 that it's supposed to be part of the final document. And  
19 I don't know that we can correct that here, but if that's  
20 possible I'd like to see that done.

21 MR. PORTHOUSE:

22 That's a good point. One of the things we're doing  
23 coastwide, not just out of here where you do have the  
24 Calcasieu ship channel specifically where you do a lot of  
25 dredge material, channel dredging, and have an enormous  
potential to create and restore wetlands with that

1 material, we're trying to take that on a coastwide basis,  
2 fix some of the hangups, the problems we experienced with  
3 the Section 204 Program of the Corps. We're going to try  
4 to handle that programmatically to cut through some of the  
5 problems we're having like no ready, clear site book  
6 material on when we have a dredging need. So those things  
7 we're going to start working through. That is one issue  
8 we can bring up and once we get to the point of getting a  
9 long-term management plans for the dredging material, but  
10 that is something that we'll put back into the mix. We're  
11 probably not going to address that specific issue in this  
12 report.

13 JUDGE EDWARD:

14 And I would suggest -- I know America's Wetland has  
15 some videos -- that the next round of meeting that you  
16 bring big boxes of videos so people can take them and  
17 start distributing them to the general public.

18 MR. PORTHOUSE:

19 You know, the last time we came out with the  
20 Governor's Office we actually had a little TV with the  
21 video playing. But we didn't do that this time; it's our  
22 fault. Next time we'll bring a TV and we can have it  
23 playing in the background before and after the meetings.  
24 That's a good point.

25 MS. DUNCAN:

Okay. Thank you. Do I have anyone else who would

1 like to make a comment or question who has not spoken  
2 before? Anyone? I believe, if I'm correct, that Mr.  
3 Sagrera and Mr. Guilbeau would like to make additional  
4 comments.

5 MR. SAGRERA:

6 I would like to more or less reiterate some of the  
7 comments the judge made. I'm a private landowner in the  
8 wetlands, and a lot of the private landowners -- which the  
9 biggest part of the wetlands of Louisiana are privately  
10 owned -- I think we need to get more -- I guess to  
11 biblicate more input, more cooperation from private  
12 landowners. We need to consider them. And right now  
13 private landowners want to save the wetlands, save their  
14 wetland. They're not allowed to save their wetland at  
15 their own expense. Now if we were asking the federal  
16 government to pay for it that's a different thing, but  
17 we're talking about small, significant controls here. A  
18 lot of private landowners want to put that in themselves  
19 to stop this salinity, but we're not allowed to do it.  
20 So if you're going to do some salinity controls there, to  
21 me it looks like if it's good for the goose it's good for  
22 the gander. We need to kind of ease them, the regulations  
23 to where we can do that ourselves and we can potentially  
24 do some of this work that either... (Inaudible) And to get  
25 better cooperation we need to at least consider the  
private landowner.



1 MR. PORTHOUSE:

2 I think you're absolutely correct, and I would hope  
3 that when a local landowner, such as yourself, puts  
4 together a project proposal for your own land at your own  
5 expense you're just not getting flat no's. This has to be  
6 a partnership between the federal and state agencies and  
7 the land ownerships, and we are hoping that we can work  
8 with you to make them happen, especially if you're going  
9 to pay for it.

10 MR. SAGRERA:

11 It took us two years to get a permit to do it. And  
12 then we've got to jeopardize the integrity of what you  
13 want to do with the regulations. You're almost shooting  
14 yourself in the foot.

15 MS. DUNCAN:

16 All right. Thank you, Mr. Sagrera. Mr. Guilbeau,  
17 would you like to make some additional comments?

18 MR. GUILBEAU:

19 Yes, ma'am. I want to comment on the Galveston  
20 Corps. I join with the others who have talked about  
21 getting Galveston involved down here. It starts at  
22 Shreveport and it's due south -- north Padre. And this is  
23 about where this area is the Galveston Corps, and we need  
24 them to be involved with what we're trying to do because  
25 it is their area. We have good cooperation from the New  
Orleans Corps, but we don't get it from the Galveston

1 Corps. Now we've got good shoreline protection at Coastal  
2 Beach, Holly Beach, in that area. We need to get some  
3 between Holly Beach and the ship channels. We need to get  
4 some over this area here, West Cameron Port Dredge, the  
5 Cameron Loop at the expense of the property owners in  
6 Cameron Parish. We were not allowed to use Bunkie Islands  
7 for spoil. We were not allowed to use the Sabine Refuge  
8 area here for spoil or up here. We had to submarine the  
9 pipelines below -- underneath the channel and put them out  
10 here on the coastline. Now I'd like to see the Corps or  
11 other folks also when they do dredging to put some of it  
12 there. We need to -- this shoreline is very -- getting --  
13 is getting very close to Highway 82, and we need help on  
14 that. That needs to be included very definitely.

15 MS. DUNCAN:

16 Would you like to respond Sue?

17 MS. HAWES:

18 Again, Mr. Rodney, I will talk to -- go back  
19 tomorrow and see what we can do about it; calling our  
20 brothers and sisters over in Galveston.

21 MR. GUILBEAU:

22 Thank you, Sue. And thank you and Jon and Robin and  
23 all of you for what you have done here. I'd like to  
24 congratulate the facilities here. Mayor Roach was our  
25 representative, and the fact that he's getting this done -  
- he did so many things for Cameron and Calcasieu Parish

1 and the whole state when he was with the Natural Resources  
2 Committee; he chaired it and so forth. He has done much.

3 And he is still doing much for coastal restoration. We  
4 applaud that. We -- the fact that he is on the governor's  
5 committee, that new -- that twenty or thirty member  
6 committee, that's wonderful. And I'm proud that you-all  
7 mentioned the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana  
8 because tonight I see at least five members of the board  
9 of Coastal Louisiana -- Coalition to Restore Coastal  
10 Louisiana. I think three of them here are on the  
11 executive board or more. But anyhow, that organization is  
12 a nonprofit group and they're trying to work with all of  
13 the state, federal and local agencies to promote the  
14 restoration and the saving of coastal Louisiana. I'd like  
15 to thank the folks from the other agencies who I have not  
16 mentioned, but Fish and Wildlife, etcetera. All of these  
17 folks: NRCS, etcetera. These folks have done their job  
18 and we appreciate them.

19 MS. DUNCAN:

20 Thank you, Mr. Guilbeau. We still have a few  
21 minutes for some more questions and comments. Would you  
22 like to make another one?

23 MR. RICHARD:

24 One small comment. Sue, I want some clarification  
25 in regard to the four scenarios that you show. One was no  
action. One was save or only allow two hundred and fifty

1 square miles to be lost. You know, from our prospective  
2 and from the wetland management that we represent and that  
3 we work for, we would like to take an aggressive approach,  
4 and we think the aggressive approach to create two hundred  
5 and fifty square miles by the year 2050, or whatever the  
6 goal is here, is what I would like to promote. I was just  
7 a little unclear. Did you ask us for a choice or -- I  
8 didn't quite know what you were presenting up there.

9 MS. HAWES:

10 What we're trying to do is -- the reason I showed  
11 the slide of everybody in the country paying is we've got  
12 to show them we didn't just narrowly look at one thing.  
13 We looked at a wide array of alternatives.

14 MR. RICHARD:

15 I'm talking about the approach in regard to the  
16 wetland deterioration. In the wetland deterioration  
17 scenario that showed that we --

18 MS. HAWES:

19 Yeah. We have, you know, those targets of reducing  
20 -- cutting the loss in half. Or in your area not only do  
21 we have one enhance where we, you know, go like half again  
22 as much gain, we have another one. And Darryl, what is  
23 enhance two? I forgot my numbers.

24 MR. CLARK:

25 Well, we don't have an enhance two anymore I don't  
think. But we have a main -- we have an enhance one, a

1 maintain which is no net loss, and we have a reduce, which  
2 is a reduce loss by fifty percent.

3 MS. HAWES:

4 But we definitely know the enhanced target is a good  
5 one to aim for, more seriously looking at it.

6 MS. DUNCAN:

7 Okay.

8 MR. PERRY:

9  
10 I wasn't really going to say anything. I'm Guthry  
11 Perry, Wildlife and Fisheries of Louisiana down at  
12 Rockefeller Refuge. You know, here in Louisiana we've got  
13 one of the finest industries with the crawfish industry.  
14 LSU went out; they helped people, did research and they  
15 showed these farmers how to raise their crawfish, catfish,  
16 alligator. Larry McNeese is back there. I don't know how  
17 many alligator farmers they helped get started. Why can't  
18 somebody, some state agency, help these guys, Mr. Sagera  
19 and them, put their permits together? Put them together  
20 and then go to the federal agencies and state, and it  
21 might be a little more easier to work through. When David  
22 brought it up, we were tired. He's worked with people.  
23 Tom Hess, Zib, George, all those guys; they worked with  
24 Judge Edwards and others have put their permits together  
25 and they don't quite have as much problems as some of  
these permits that come in. Ted Johanna spent lots of

1 time working with people. So what I'm proposing or  
2 suggesting is maybe is the federal or state agencies could  
3 have an extension or somebody to actually help the  
4 landowners in these different regions put their permits  
5 together. Some of these guys, they've got some of the --  
6 shoot, we got some of the best DIS people in the state  
7 right down there in Rockefeller. Everybody else they've  
8 got to argue and stuff. We could formulate -- put them  
9 together. It might be a little easier to get them going a  
10 little bit quicker.

11 MS. DUNCAN:

12 Okay. Thank you. We have time for another  
13 question. Any other questions? Okay. Before you go, I  
14 want to remind you of just a few things. First, the  
15 presentations that you saw here tonight, there are copies  
16 available at the back table that you can pick up and take  
17 home with you to study a little more. Also, tonight's  
18 presentation is on the website, and I don't know if they  
19 pushed it hard enough earlier. It's [www.coast2050.gov](http://www.coast2050.gov).  
20 You can see tonight's presentation and, from what I  
21 understand, by tomorrow there's going to be one combined  
22 presentation that includes all the presentations that were  
23 given in Belle Chase, Larose, Morgan City and tonight. So  
24 you might want to spend some time at that website.

25 I want to remind you again what Jon mentioned about  
how to keep in touch and how to stay updated. First, he

1 mentioned be on the mailing list. Just fill out this  
2 little card before you leave and turn it in to the folks  
3 that are at the table. This is going to put you on the  
4 mailing list. Then, attend more of these meetings.  
5 There's going to be another series of meetings in April  
6 and in May. And if you're on this mailing list you're  
7 going to get a notice of those meetings. Also, there are  
8 these little comment cards. If you weren't comfortable  
9 making a comment tonight there are some comment cards that  
10 are also at the back table that you just fill out. It's  
11 no postage necessary. It's self addressed. You can just  
12 put it in the mail and it'll get to Troy and Jon, both of  
13 them. Another thing, again, I'm going to push that  
14 website [www.coast2050.gov](http://www.coast2050.gov). There's a lot of frequently  
15 asked questions on the website. There's also, again, a  
16 copy of tonight's presentation along with combined  
17 presentations from the last two weeks. And there's also a  
18 way to submit online comments and questions. I can't  
19 stress enough how -- what a wonderful resource this  
20 website really is.

21 Before you leave, I want to ask everyone to give a  
22 hand to Jon and Sue for doing such a good job tonight. So  
23 we appreciate you coming out. On behalf of the Office of  
24 the Governor, the Louisiana Department of Natural  
25 Resources and the Army Corps of Engineers, we thank you  
for coming out tonight. We value your opinions. We value

1 your comments, and we hope to see you again very soon.

2 Thank you.

3 If you just have a few moments, I think Mr. Darryl  
4 Clark would like to make an announcement.

5 MR. CLARK:

6 Excuse me there. We go back to our regional  
7 planning team meetings starting next week. There will be  
8 one in Rockefeller Refuge -- at Rockefeller Refuge  
9 February 19th, that's next Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. in the  
10 morning, and this will be to nominate projects for the  
11 priority project list number thirteen. And then there  
12 will be meetings in Morgan City and in New Orleans after  
13 that. You can go to [www.lacoast](http://www.lacoast) website for that. And  
14 also save Louisiana coast, you can go to that one, too.  
15 That's the DNR website.

16 MS. DUNCAN:

17 Thank you. Good evening. Have a safe trip home.

18 MEETING COMMENCED AT 8:29 P.M.



C E R T I F I C A T E

I, the undersigned reporter, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing 96 pages are a true and correct transcription of the stenomask tape of the LCA Public Meeting, taken down by me and transcribed under my supervision, to the best of my ability and understanding, at the time and place hereinbefore noted, in the above-entitled cause.

I further certify that the witness was duly sworn by me in my capacity as a Certified Court Reporter pursuant to LSA-R.S. 37:2551 et seq., in and for the State of Louisiana; that I am not of counsel nor related to any of the counsel of any of the parties, nor in the employ of any of the parties, and that I have no interest in the outcome of this action.

I further certify that my license is in good standing as a court reporter in and for the State of Louisiana.

PAMELA M. MACDOWELL,  
CCR (#20077)

R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

I, Pamela M. MacDowell, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, the officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or Article 1434(b) of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure, before whom this sworn testimony was taken, do hereby state on the record:

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